

What is Claimed:

1. An annotation method for collaboration among a plurality of interconnected hosts, comprising the steps of:

annotating an application window that is displayed on a display unit;

forming or selecting an annotation object that is constructed separately from an application that constructs said application window;

determining a display position for said annotation object and displaying said annotation object thereat; and

transmitting to said plurality of interconnected hosts a request event for the sharing of said annotation object, so that said annotation object can be shared by said plurality of hosts.

2. The annotation method according to claim 1, wherein said annotation object is displayed in a window having a TOPMOST attribute so that said window is always displayed in the foreground.

3. The annotation method according to claim 2, wherein said annotation object is displayed by forming a window from which a portion not required for the annotation is removed.

4. The annotation method according to claim 1, wherein said

annotation object is an object possessing mobility.

5. The annotation method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving from said plurality of interconnected hosts
5 images displayed in said application window when said images displayed on desktops by said plurality of hosts differ.

6. A method for additional writing to an application window displayed on a desktop, comprising the steps of:

10 selecting an object for additional writing to said application window; and

displaying a window, from which an unnecessary portion has been removed, for said object by employing a window having a TOPMOST attribute to display said object in the foreground screen on said desktop.

15 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein, at said step of displaying a window, a set of rectangles is formed of pixels for which an occupation rate is not zero, and a region is generated using a region function, so that the shape of said window can be set so as to not include a transparent portion.

20 8. A computer apparatus comprising:

a display unit for displaying an application window;
an annotation object definition file for storing an

annotation object formed without dependence on an application that constructed said application window;

a window shaping unit, for shaping a window to display said stored annotation object;

5 an object selector for selecting an annotation object that is additionally written in said application window; and

10 a location selector for designating a location for the display of said selected annotation object, that corresponds to a predetermined position in said application window, wherein said display unit displays an annotation object window shaped by said window shaping unit at said designated location in said application window.

15 9. The computer apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said window shaping unit detects a transparent attribute of an object, which is information for said annotation object, and permits a predetermined image that is positioned at said predetermined location in said application window to be seen through.

20 10. The computer apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a sharing request transmitter for transmitting an annotation object sharing request to a computer apparatus that is connected thereto.

11. An automatic contract machine comprising:

means for displaying predetermined windows including an application window employed when jointly preparing a contract with a customer; and

5 means for receiving from a connected host apparatus, a request event for the sharing of an object that is used to draw the attention of a customer to said application window, wherein said means for displaying processes said object based on said sharing request event, and displays an object window in said application window.

10 12. The automatic contract machine of claim 11, wherein said means for displaying designates a location for said object, and a window designated for said object is shaped using a region function.

15 13. A system for collaboration between a first host and a second host, wherein said first host comprises:

selection means, for forming or selecting an annotation object to be used when annotating a first application window displayed by said second host; and

20 transmission means, for transmitting, to said second host, a request event for the sharing of said annotation object that is formed or selected; and

said second host comprises:

reception means, for receiving from said first host

said request event for the sharing of said annotation;

processing means, for processing said annotation object based on said sharing request event; and

first display means, for displaying with said first application window a second window containing said processed annotation object.

14. The collaboration system according to claim 13, wherein said first host further comprises:

second display means, for displaying a predetermined third application window and said selected annotation object, wherein said third application window is the same as said second application window displayed by said second host, and wherein said annotation object is displayed on said third application window.

15. The collaboration system according to claim 13, wherein said first host further comprises:

acquisition request means for requesting from said second host a currently displayed application window.

16. A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program that permits a computer to perform:

a process for forming or selecting an annotation object to draw attention to a specific portion of a desktop image displayed on a desktop;

a process for determining a display position for said annotation object; and

a process for transmitting, to a connected host, a sharing request event that includes information concerning said annotation object and said determined display position.

17. A computer program product for controlling the display of a computer, comprising:

a first sub-routine, stored on a storage medium, for permitting said computer to perform a process for designating a location on a desktop, whereat an annotation object window is displayed, for the writing and the display on said desktop of an additional application window; and

a second sub-routine, also stored on said storage medium, for permitting said computer to perform a process for displaying on said desktop screen, using a window having an attribute that ensures said window will be displayed in the foreground of the screen, an annotation object window in which an unnecessary portion is transparent.

18. A program transmission apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a program that permits a computer to perform:

a process for forming or selecting an annotation object to draw attention to a specific portion of a desktop image displayed on a desktop;

a process for determining a display position for said annotation object; and

a process for transmitting, to a connected host, a sharing request event that includes information concerning said annotation object and said determined display position; and

transmission means for reading said program from said storage means and for transmitting said program.

19. A program transmission apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a program that permits a computer to perform:

a process for designating a location on a desktop screen, whereat an annotation object window is displayed, for the writing and the display on said desktop screen of an additional application window;

a process for displaying on said desktop screen, using a window having an attribute that ensures said window will be displayed in the foreground of said desktop screen, an annotation object window in which an unnecessary portion is transparent; and

transmission means for reading said program from said storage means and for transmitting said program.